

CALUMET & HECLA PUBLIC LIBRARY
101 Red Jacket Road
Calumet
Houghton County
Michigan

HABS MI-426
MI-426

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

CALUMET AND HECLA PUBLIC LIBRARY

HABS No. MI-426

- Location: 101 Red Jacket Road, at southeast corner of intersection with Mine Street, in Calumet, Houghton County, Michigan.
- Present Owner: Universal Oil Products (UOP).
- Present Use: The building is currently being restored as a historic library museum by Coppertown USA. The building also provides office space for Coppertown USA and for a small skeletal staff of UOP.
- Significance: The Calumet and Hecla Public Library, with baths in the basement, was a notable demonstration of the paternalism of a great corporation. In addition to providing unmatched cultural facilities with its collection of books, newspapers, and periodicals in many foreign languages, mounted prints, stereopticon views, Underwood and Keystone travel tours, maps, mineral specimens, and other displays, the library performed a didactic role. Its collection helped to acculturate the many foreigners in Calumet and was one of the most significant and beloved institutions in the community. The building is a striking blend of sophisticated design and the handsome stonework of local masons.
- Historian: Wendy Nicholas, 1975.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical history

1. Dates of erection: Ground was broken in June of 1896 and the library opened September 17, 1898.
2. Architects: Shaw and Hunnewell of Boston provided the design for the library along with the "Specifications of Labor and Material for a Library to be erected in Calumet, Michigan." The Architectural Section of the Calumet and Hecla Mining Company's Engineering Department then worked out specific details, sometimes altering the detail designs submitted by Shaw and Hunnewell and substituting materials specified by the architects with available ones. Electric light fixtures designed by the C. H. McKenny Co. were used and the Winslow Brothers of Chicago submitted the drawings for the booklift.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The chain of title follows.
 - I. E ½ S ½ of NW ¼, SW ¼ of SW ¼ E ½ of SW ¼ PATENT

State of Michigan to
St. Mary's Falls Ship Canal Co.
May 25, 1855, rec. September 4, 1875.
Vol. 17, p. 2.

II. E $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ WARRANTY DEED
St. Mary's Falls Ship Canal Co. to
St. Mary's Canal Mineral Land Co.
June 8, 1860, rec. June 23, 1862.
Vol. 5, p. 316.

III. E $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ WARRANTY DEED
St. Mary's Canal Mineral Land Co. to
Hecla Mining Co.
September 11, 1866, rec. October 15, 1866.
Vol. 8, p. 371.

IV. Merger of Hecla with the Calumet Mining Company in March 1871 to form the
Calumet and Hecla Mining Company.
p. 72, Red Metal.

V. Formation of the Calumet and Hecla Consolidated Copper Company.
September 10, 1923.
p. 140, Red Metal.

VI. Formation of Calumet and Hecla, Inc.
November 8, 1952
Vol. MR, p. 312.

VII. Calumet and Hecla merged with Universal Oil Products.
April 25, 1968.

4. Builder or Contractor: The construction department of the Calumet and Hecla Mining
Company built the library.

5. Original plans and construction: Blueprints of the original Shaw and Hunnewell plans
are in the Calumet and Hecla archives at the Coppertown USA headquarters. In addition,
the archives contains tracings and blueprints of the Calumet and Hecla detail drawings
and plans for alterations, C. H. McKenny Co. pen and ink sketches of electric light
fixtures, Winslow Brothers Co. drawings for the booklift, and C.W. & F. Smith Iron Co.
drawings for the basement book stacks. The original plans provided for a two-and-a-half
story building with a basement level housing public baths, one area being for men and
another for women and children. On the first floor was a large Book Delivery Room,
catalog, Librarian's Office, two-level open Stack Room, and Men's and Women's Cloak
Rooms. On the second floor, along with a Special Room which has served many purposes
and a storage room, were the Adult Reading Room and another large room designated as

a "Hall" on the Shaw and Hunnewell plans, as a "Smoking Room" on Calumet and Hecla miscellaneous detail drawings dated 1898, and as the "Girls' and Boys' Reading Room" on Calumet and Hecla 1905 alteration plans. The Adult Reading Room is a large, spacious room (40'-8" x 38' x 24') and the Children's Reading Room is of similar proportions. Four sets of reverse arch braces extend from the cornice level in the Adult Reading Room, north-south, up to the coffered ceiling and down to the opposite wall. Overlooking the Adult Reading Room was a Gallery used for small group meetings and for children's story hours. An attic was located above the two reading rooms.

6. Alterations and additions: Two kinds of alterations were made to the library. Calumet and Hecla architects made small changes to the Shaw and Hunnewell drawings before actual construction began. Later, alterations to the building itself were made to accommodate an expanding community and company. On numerous occasions then Calumet and Hecla architects modified the Shaw and Hunnewell drawings. While maintaining similar classically derived details, the Calumet and Hecla draftsmen made small changes in the design of the columns, some moldings, panels, and sills. They also allotted only two balusters per tread on the staircase, although Shaw and Hunnewell had specified three.

The Gallery stairs were also changed. The Boston architects' plan would have continued the stair arrangement of the lower floors, and so the stairs would have penetrated the Gallery level perpendicular to the west wall and jugged out into the room. Shaw and Hunnewell's proposal for the stairs broke up the Gallery floor and isolated about twenty percent of the space. In response, the Calumet and Hecla designers altered the Shaw and Hunnewell plan to create a more workable arrangement. By inserting an intermediate landing and turning the stairs to bring most of the flight up along the west wall of the building, Calumet and Hecla architects obtained a far more judicious use of the floor space in the Gallery.

Shaw and Hunnewell's original plans provided the library with only one entrance, that being in the central bay of the north facade. Soon after the library's opening in September of 1898, however, the Boston architects submitted drawings for a west entrance porch. This was to extend from the main stairhall landing on the west facade. Calumet and Hecla architects perfected the design, adding extra porch steps to fit the grade of the land. The new entrance was added before 1900, for a photo taken in that year indicates its presence. Most likely, the entrance was built as soon as possible after plans were approved in order to reduce the traffic of bathers passing through the Book Delivery Room to the staircase down to the baths.

In 1905 to 1906 numerous small changes were made to the library to accommodate expanding collections and increased patronage. Apparently the bath area patrons were primarily men, for in 1905 the women's and children's bathing area was reduced, providing additional bath cubicles for men. The men's large washroom became the "Waiting Room." On the first floor, the Women's Coat Room became home for the library's collection of mounted prints. The Men's Coat Room served as a repair room. The rectangular desk near the south end of the Book Delivery Room and the railing

separating the catalog from the rest of the room were removed. A semi-elliptical desk was installed against the south wall of the room, yielding a more open space with greater freedom for movement. Additional bookshelves were built in the Children's Reading Room, the Special Room, and the Gallery. Also, the desk partition between the Adult Reading Room and the Special Room was removed. Furthermore, in order to prevent the children using the Gallery from disturbing the patrons in the Adult Reading Room, the open archway above the Gallery balustrade was enclosed with a glass and frame construction.

Between 1911 and 1913, the Calumet and Hecla Mining Company had a separate bathhouse built for its employees. Thus, the public baths were removed from the library basement and the space altered for library purposes.

It is not clear what arrangements were made in the main section of the basement. A 1911 drawing entitled "Proposed Basement Alterations" suggests that a storage room be built under the main staircase and that a Ladies' Toilet and Coat Room be located north of the stairhall and a Janitor's Room to the south. The major portion of the space east of the stairhall would, according to the 1911 proposal, be divided into four rooms. To the east of the stairs a Packing Room (15' x 27'-6") and a Book Repair Room (26' x 27'-6") were to be built. Along the north wall adjacent to the Ladies' Toilet and Coat Room were to be two storage rooms.

In its 1912 Annual Report, the mining company announced that "the remodeling of the basement of the Agassiz Library is nearly completed and will give about fifty percent additional stack room, a new technical reading room and space for binding and repairing books."

Since no official plans of the 1913 basement alterations exist, it is difficult to say unequivocally what the final plans were. Examination of the basement itself and conversations with a former librarian for the Calumet and Hecla Public Library lead one to believe that the proposal may have been accepted. The two storage rooms were built accordingly as were the Janitor's Room, Ladies' Toilet and Coat Room, and the storage room beneath the stair. There remains some evidence of a north-south wall, which would have separated the Packing Room and Book Repair Room, and the librarian remembers these two rooms, though used for other purposes.

Once the baths were removed, builders constructed iron bookcases for children's books in the south wing beneath the two existing stack levels on the first floor. A flight of iron stairs connected the levels, but in order to accommodate the new stairs from the basement to the first floor, the original first floor stairs had to be moved west 12". This iron work was done according to drawings submitted by the G.W. & F. Smith Iron Co. at the end of 1912.

In or around 1917, a wooden porch gable was bracketed over the front entrance. The sandstone steps were replaced with concrete ones and a poor rock and concrete railing built on either side of the steps.

In 1944, when the financial burden of the library became too heavy for the declining mining company, the library collection was transferred to the Calumet High School. The building was converted into office space for the Calumet and Hecla Consolidated Copper Co. Extensive remodeling took place.

In the main section of the basement was a large room (approximately 32' x 28') with six smaller rooms adjacent to it, three each along the north and east walls. On either side of the stairhall were the men's and women's toilets. In the south wing builders erected walls to create one large drafting room (34' x 20'-6") in the northern two-thirds of the wing and three nearly square offices along the south wall of the wing. A brick vault was added, extending from the central bay of the west wall of the south wing. The plaster on the basement ceiling was removed and the exposed beams painted.

The first floor was partitioned to create office space for the company president, chief geologist, research director, legal experts, and stenographers. The President's Office (18' x 24') was created from part of the Book Delivery Room south of the former Men's Coat Room. To the south of the President's Office a smaller office was created (9'-4 1/2" x 24') for the president's stenographer. Other company stenographers occupied the Librarian's Office to the southwest of the stairhall. The south wing, once housing the library's book collection, was divided into four offices, two on either side of a central hall running north-south. The second stack level was removed entirely. The double window in the central bay of the south wall was removed, a similar one of half the width installed, and the remaining space in-filled with red brick. No significant changes were made to the second floor to the Gallery other than the application of acoustical tiles to the plaster panels of the Adult Reading Room ceiling.

Minor changes were made to the building in the early 1950s. Three-paned windows, but with only the center pane operable, replaced smaller ones in the basement level. An additional office was created in the south wing of the first floor. Sundry changes to the heating and plumbing were also achieved.

In 1968, a gas-fired cast iron boiler was installed in the basement at the (north) foot of the stairhall. This action removed the library from the central steam system and also eliminated the north half of the double staircase.

Moreover, at an unspecified time, a turned-wood fret was placed in front of the lunette portion of the Adult Reading Room's semi-circular windows. Glass replaced the eye-level panels on many of the library doors. Four-sash mullioned windows replaced the two-sash windows on the north front at the first-floor level.

B. Historical events and persons associated with the building

Calumet is one small American town whose public library was not a Carnegie gift. Instead, the Calumet and Hecla Public Library resulted from a combination of Boston Brahmins and Boston dollars and Calumet industry and will.

Before 1896, the mining company had established a public reading room with several thousand volumes. However, it had closed because of lack of use. Members of the large working class felt unwelcome there and did not frequent the reading room. But the desire for a reading room open to all classes persisted in the community.

After several years of record profits, the Calumet and Hecla Mining Company agreed to erect a public library at no cost to the township--as long as the library could be known as the Calumet and Hecla Library. Company president Alexander Agassiz, a Harvard marine geologist, tapped his Boston connections to get the library started. The Boston firm of Shaw and Hunnewell were the architects. Harvard Library compiled a list of books essential for a small public library, and Agassiz imported three thousand books necessary for the collection from Boston. In addition, Bertha H. Merrill, a professional librarian, traveled to Calumet from the Massachusetts capital to perform the initial cataloguing tasks required to get the library started. Calumet Township contributed the thirty-eight hundred books from its reading room, which had closed. On September 17, 1898 the Calumet and Hecla Public Library opened to the residents of the Calumet school district #1 and the mining company employees and their families.

The opening was not a formal affair featuring usual benedictions and speeches by company officials. Rather, "the management, ...issued the invitations to the men, also their families, in the hope that they will feel more like visiting the place than they otherwise might..." (Copper Country Evening News, quoted in Thurner, "A Tradition of Excellence.")

Although the invitations were limited to the mine company employees, the library was open to all the residents of the #1 school district of Calumet Township. Initially, there had been some misunderstandings and questions concerning the patronage of the library. The memories of uneasiness felt in the former reading room remained with the miners and people wanted to know who the library would be open to. In August of 1896 the editor of the Copper Country Evening News fretted, "If the place is to be for the employees generally, it should be plainly stated, as otherwise many of them may feel that they are intruding and not wanted, as has been the case in the past, and in consequence it will be left to the use of the few mine officials and the poorer people will keep away...this surely, cannot be the president's wish, as he has, no doubt, in view the welfare of the many and not of the few, ..." (as quoted by Thurner, in "A Tradition of Excellence"). Company President Alexander Agassiz appears to have been the only one with power to decide who could use the library, for the editor of the Copper Country Evening News indicated that no other company official "appears to be desirous of giving a satisfactory account as to who will benefit by this philanthropic move other than that it is for the company's employees and their families, ..." The editor decided that any answer would have to wait until Agassiz returned to Calumet. (Copper Country Evening News, as quoted by Thurner, "A Tradition of Excellence.") The 1897-1898 edition of Polk's Houghton County Directory wrote of the library, "The gift of Alexander Agassiz, for the benefit of the employees of the Calumet and Hecla Mining Co." Agassiz himself wrote in the 1898 annual report of the company that "the Public Library for the use of our employees has been completed, and we hope to open it to the public during the summer." Finally, the answer came. On September 16, 1898, the day before the opening of the library, the Copper Country Evening News reported that the Calumet and Hecla

Public Library would be open to both the employees of the mining company and to the residents of the Calumet Township school district #1.

Under the direction of head librarian, Mrs. Marie F. Grierson and the Library Board, composed of three school board members and two company officials, the library expanded rapidly, both in size and variety of collection and in patronage and circulation. Adult and juvenile fiction and non-fiction lined the shelves of the open stacks. In addition to its holdings in English, the library maintained a large collection of volumes in foreign languages. Translations of English and American fiction, books on American history and biography, dictionaries and Bibles were available in French, Italian, German, Finnish, Swedish, Polish, Slovenian, Croatian, and Hungarian. The concern was to help the large immigrant population gain United States citizenship. The library also subscribed to newspapers and periodicals for both adults and children. Furthermore, the library circulated mounted prints and clippings. A collection of photographs of the Copper Country, stereopticon views and viewers, Underwood and Keystone travel tours, maps, mineral specimens, stuffed birds and many other visual aids were available for use in the library.

Much of the atmosphere created was a result of the policies of the head librarian, Marie F. Grierson. In the 1920s, an era of flapper dresses and bouncing curls, Mrs. Grierson continued to wear high collared blouses stiffened with stays. Her long hair was piled atop her head in Gibson girl fashion. In fact, the head librarian would hire no young woman with short hair, although it was the rage of the time. Grierson demanded proper conduct of her female employees. They were not to mingle with the male librarians or with the janitor. Nor was there to be loud giggling or foolishness in the library. Grierson was considered quaint, yet the result was an efficiently and creatively run library, a place that still holds a key position among the fond memories of the oldest generations of Calumet residents.

Five years after its opening, the Calumet and Hecla Public Library was considered appealing enough to host a tour group of librarians returning east from the American Library Association conference in 1903. After leaving their conference at Lake Minnetonka near Minneapolis, librarians could choose one of three post-conference tours. Those who wished to travel east through the Great Lakes region could take the journey through Duluth, Minnesota, to Houghton, Michigan, and then to Calumet. The librarians' itinerary informed them that "the day will be spent at Calumet, Mich. the location of the famous Calumet and Hecla mines, where the party will be entertained by the Calumet and Hecla library. Opportunity will be given to inspect the library, to visit the rock and shaft houses, and see the machinery of this, the richest of copper mines." (*ALA Bulletin*, 1903, p. 34.)

The baths in the basement of the library were probably a surprise to most of the visiting librarians. They were available to the men, women, and children of the school district and of the company, free of charge. Residents might stop by on their way home from work to have a hot or cold shower or bath. In 1899 Agassiz reported that "the bathrooms, situated in the basement of the building, have barely been equal to the demands made upon them by both men and women." And, in 1911, when the company extended library privileges to workers of the several other small mining companies which Calumet and Hecla had absorbed, patronage of both the baths and the reading rooms became large enough to warrant the construction of a separate bathhouse.

The baths were removed from the basement and the library was then expanded to include the area. Residents continued to enjoy these excellent cultural and sanitary facilities until 1944.

The mining company, then, retained strong connection to the library. Despite the fact that the directing committee was composed of three school board members and only two company officials, the mining company furnished the building, bought the major portion of the library collection, and paid the operating expenses. The school district contributed its collection to the library and paid small annual sums for book maintenance.

Calumet residents enjoyed the quality educational facilities provided by the great corporation until 1944, when a decision was made to close the library. The specific reason for abandonment is not perfectly clear. Apparently around 1935 the building which had housed the Calumet and Hecla geologists and engineers burned. The men were moved into the General Office building, which at the time was already crowded. Thus, it appears that additional office space was needed for the geology and engineering staffs. However, in the 1940s, the company was declining, and according to Lucille Sindlebacker, a former librarian for Calumet and Hecla, the company could no longer afford to support the library. A third explanation, offered by Danny Erickson, employee of the mining company for forty-five years, relates the library's closing to the appearance of the Unions. Unions began organizing the mine workers in the 1930s. As they gradually established strength in the Copper Country, the mine company began cutting back benefits to its employees. The company sensed that the employees were no longer "for the Company" but rather, against it. Thus the company began cutting expenses of public services, including the library. Whatever the explanation, there ended forty-five years of the presence of an active and well-used public library in Calumet.

The Calumet and Hecla Public Library was one of the most beloved institutions of Calumet. There, children could go to story hour on Saturday mornings. Women could find the latest needlework patterns. In fact, women learned to sew and to read music at the public library, through use of the books and periodicals. Immigrants could catch up on the latest news of their homelands. Patrons could travel to the places of their dreams through the courtesy of the library's Underwood and Keystone travel tours. Many romances were started in the cozy atmosphere of the library reading rooms. The library was a pleasant retreat from the daily hustle and bustle of the mining town. The rooms were always filled with flowers and interesting displays appropriate to the season. Children and adults alike loved to patronize the Calumet and Hecla Public Library.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General statement

1. Architectural character: The Library exemplifies the sophisticated design of Boston architects Shaw and Hunnewell as it was adapted by local architects and masons to accommodate Copper Country resources. It represents the extreme pride taken by the Calumet and Hecla Mining Company in the quality of architectural design for its buildings.

2. Condition of Fabric: Excellent.

B. Description of exterior

1. Over-all dimensions: The main section of this two-and a-half-story, T-shaped structure is 62' - 4" (three bays) by 42' - 4". The south wing is 38' - 4" (three bays) by 32' and is two stories high.

2. Foundations: The foundations consist of twenty-five inch thick walls made of polygonal, dark gray "poor rock" from mine tailings with beaded joints.

3. Walls: Load-bearing cavity walls with inside withes of brick. Hammer-dressed broken-ashlar masonry of local dark gray "poor rock" possessing red and green highlights. Light gray quartz rock is interspersed throughout the surface, yielding a pleasing variation of color and tone. The mortar pattern is prominent, with clear, convex joints accentuating each stone. Culled red brick frames the wall surfaces. Brick quoins establish the corners and frame second-story windows on all but the gable ends. Brick belt courses are present at the basement window's sill line, at the sill and lintel lines of the second-story windows, and, on the gable ends, above the arches of the large, semi-circular windows. Stepped courses establish the top boundaries of the gable walls. Brick door and window arches contribute accent and color to the wall panels as does the geometric design of stone and brick beneath each gable peak.

4. Structural system, framing: The structural system consists of masonry, load-bearing walls and hard pine floor joists with steel beams interspersed. Drawings and specifications are not clear as to the precise extent of steel I beams used in structural framing. Particularly complex and supportive iron construction underlies the Stack Room in the south wing.

5. Porches, stoops, bulkheads: Main (north) entrance stoop is of concrete with poor rock and concrete solid railing, although, originally the steps were of sandstone and no railing existed. A painted wood gabled porch was hung over the entrance way around 1917. An enclosed one-bay, gabled entrance porch was added to the central bay of the main section's west facade soon after the library opened. (Shaw and Hunnewell and Calumet and Hecla plans dated October 1898) Sidelights of glazed diamond-shaped panes frame the door, while three similar windows line both sides of the porch. A red brick vault (18' - 1" x 12' - 2") with a low gable roof extends from the central bay of the south wing's west facade. The vault is entered from the basement.

6. Chimneys: An elaborate outside end chimney is the dominant element on the east wall. It is rectangular with no hips. Serving only a fireplace in the Adult Reading Room on the second floor, the chimney is corbelled out from the second-floor level. Its elongated brick panels rise upwards to form the chimney, topped by a simple corbelled cap. Beneath the gable, trussing frames an attractive rectangular design of contrasting stone and brick on the chimney.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: At the main (north) entrance there is a double, four-panel painted wood door with glass replacing the panel at eye level. Fluted pilasters flank the door and side lights of diamond-shaped panes. Above the door and sidelights rests a three-sectioned segmented arch overhead, or fixed transom, of small square panes. A red brick segmental arch with alternating, radiating voussoirs and a brick keystone element frames the transom while the side frames of the door are light gray stone quoins, dressed slightly finer than is the overall wall surface. At the side or west entrance, there is a single, three-panel wood door with glass replacing the top panel. Painted wood pediment with square and triangular panels tops the doorway, and side lights with diamond-shaped panes frame the sides above the belt course. Both exterior doors open into vestibules with a second door leading into the library itself. This type of entrance is common on the Upper Peninsula, for it helps to insulate the building from the cold. The inner doorway in the north vestibule has double, five-paneled pine doors with glass replacing the panels at eye-level. The arch is of brick and is flat. The inner door in the west vestibule is like its outer one.

b. Windows and shutters: In the basement are casement windows and three-paned fixed windows that have a central, operable pane. All have flat brick row-locked arches. First-floor windows in the south wing (Stack Room) are two double-hung mullioned windows, sometimes single and sometimes in pairs, with wood-paneled spandrels in between. The main section of the library has double-hung windows of varying sizes. At the second-story level, two sash double-hung windows prevail, although large semi-circular mullioned openings are found on either side of the chimney on the east facade and above the west entrance porch. Three double-hung, two-sash windows light the Gallery on the west facade and a lunette decorates the central bay of the south facade. All sills are made of cut red sandstone. Lintels are brick. Those of the semi-circular and lunette windows are alternating voussoirs with brick keystone elements. Other openings have flat brick arches. Primarily gray poor rock frames the window openings, however, brick was used for the second-floor windows, except for those in the three gables.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: Two intersecting gables covered with dark gray slates form the roof. The slates, measuring 10" by 18" have a 3" overlap, and metal slates cover the lower four courses. Flashing is of sixteen-ounce copper wedged with lead into grooves in the masonry. Counter flashings are of four-pound lead.

b. Cornice, eaves: Wood eaves are embellished with shallow brackets at the corners and dentils in between. The gable ends have bargeboards decorated with a geometric relief pattern. The east gable has a trussed frame on wooden brackets to enhance the decorative brick and stone pattern on the chimney.

c. Dormer, cupolas, towers: None.

C. Description of interior

1. Floor plans: The basement level has been much altered. Originally, public baths were located in the basement, with the women's and children's bath and "waterclosets" in the south wing. The main section had the staircase in the central bay of the west facade with the women's and children's washroom to its south and the men's wet, closets to its north. The remaining seventy-five percent of the main section housed the men's washroom, baths, and showers. Presently, the basement provides office and work space for UOP engineers. Men's and women's restrooms are to the north and south of the staircase, and a storage room was built beneath it. One large room with six smaller rooms adjoining it along the north and east walls constitute the remaining portion of the main section. The south wing has one large storage area with three office cubicles along its south wall. The 1944 vault entrance is midway in the west wall. On the first floor, the original men's and women's coat rooms lay on either side of the central (north) entrance vestibule. The Book Delivery Boom occupied most of the main section, with the stairhall on the west central bay and the librarian's office in the southwest corner. A two-level Stack Room was located in the south wing, with an iron staircase connecting the levels. In 1944 walls were built to partition the first floor into offices. Six such rooms were created along a central hall in the south wing. Alterations to the Book Delivery Room resulted in a central entry hall with a large (president's) office along the east wall with an adjoining office for secretaries. The principal rooms on the second floor are the Adult and Children's Reading Rooms. The former occupied the eastern three-fourths of the main section of the building. The latter enveloped the entire south wing. In the western one-fourth of the main section are located the staircase with offices on either side. This floor plan remains virtually unchanged. An attic-story Gallery lies above the stairhall and its adjoining offices.

2. Stairways: A double staircase of shellacked hard pine is located in the west central bay of the main section. Only one flight of steps continues to the Gallery. The staircase is an open-string stair with 8 ½" x 8 ½" newel posts with molded caps and a molded rail, 3 ½" x 4". Turned balusters with square ends support the rail, two per tread. The staircase arches are lovely board and bead panels of pine. Originally, a screen of turned balusters was built in the basement at the foot of the main stairs to separate the women's bathing area from the men's. An iron staircase formerly connected the stack levels.

3. Flooring: Basement floors are concrete. First- and second-story floors of the south wing are iron, although a hard pine upper layer was applied to the second-story floor. Floors of the vestibules, stairhall, Gallery, and first- and second-levels of the main section are spruce plank sub-floors with hard pine finish. A protective battleship linoleum-type covering, put down soon after the building opened, now conceals all but the basement floors.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Brick walls in the basement, vestibule, and stairhall are painted, as was originally specified. All other interior surfaces, excluding the basement ceiling, are finished with wood or plaster. Ceiling beams of the main building and of the Children's Reading Room are cased with hard pine, and a molding is carried around each beam. The double height ceilings in the two reading rooms along with the Gallery ceiling are semi-hexagonal in section. The ceilings in the Adult Reading Room, Gallery, and area

once used as the Book Delivery Room are coffered. Acoustical tiles have been applied to the plaster portions in the Adult Reading Room.

5. Doors and Doorways: Paneled, hard pine doors have molded trim. Double doors into the first floor entry hall from the stairhall and into the Adult Reading Room are hung on heavy double-acting hinges, permitting the doors to open both ways. Glazed overlights and sidelights adorn doors into the entry hall from the stair. Glass has replaced the upper panels on most of the doors.

6. Decorative features and trim: Molded pine trims all of the doors and windows. Board and bead wainscoting, with molded caps and bases, is found in many of the rooms. Windows in the Adult Reading Room have pine panels underneath. The brick fireplace, with its semi-circular arch and semi-hexagonal back, has a tall pine mantel with free-standing fluted pilasters columns at the front corners and similarly fluted pilasters at the back. The wide cornice of the Adult Reading Room breaks ahead over the window frames and is incorporated as the top of the fireplace mantel and at the main door into the room. Carved pine animal heads hold the ends of the Adult Reading Room tie rods in their mouths. The lunette portion of the semi-circular windows in the Adult Reading Room have turned wood fretwork covering the window inside.

7. Hardware: Most of the original hardware was bronze and not ornamented in any way. It remains intact, including the "burglar-proof Spring Fast of plain polished Bronze" and the "Sash Lifts of Bronze" specified by Shaw and Hunnewell.

8. Mechanical Equipment:

a. Lighting: The library was electrified from the start. Drawings of the C.H. McKenny Co.'s bronze ceiling-suspended and wall-mounted light fixtures, which were used, are in the Calumet and Hecla archives at Coppertown USA. The McKenny drawings and photographs in the files show simple chandeliers ("electroliers") and sconces with white glass shades with scalloped edges. These fixtures remain only in the Gallery, and there they are not used. Fluorescent lights were installed, although recently, turn-of-the-century ceiling lights have been acquired and placed in some rooms. The original fixtures are now in the Catholic church at Phoenix.

b. Heating: Originally, the library was connected to the mining company's central steam system. In 1968 when the mines were closed, however, a gas-fired cast iron boiler was installed. Vertical-tube radiators with foliated scroll designs remain.

c. Plumbing: Formerly, plumbing was extensive, serving the public baths in the basement. The baths were removed around 1913 and the plumbing was simplified to serve the building occupants.

d. Other: A dumbwaiter was installed to carry books between the first and second floors. Pine paneled cabinetry encased the works. Today the dumbwaiter shaft houses the building's electrical wiring and circuit breaker.

D. Site

The library faces north onto Red Jacket Road with Mine Street paralleling its west facade. Oak and Basswood trees line the edge of the lot along the streets. Cedars have been planted to hide the vault.

a. Historic Landscape Design: The Calumet and Hecla Mining Company built the library in the managerial section of the mining operation. Across Red Jacket Road are the General Office Building, also designed by Shaw and Hunnewell, and the Agassiz House, the home of one of the Company's founders and early presidents. Warehouse No. 1, the distribution center for all Calumet and Hecla supplies, is to the west of the library, and the Calumet Armory once stood behind the building. At one time, a rounded post and rail fence encircled the lot.

b. Outbuildings: None.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Primary and unpublished

In the archives at Coppertown USA are tracings and blueprints of architects' drawings for the original building and for most of the alterations. Shaw and Hunnewell's original "Specifications of Labor & Materials for a Library to be erected in Calumet, Michigan" is also with the drawings in the Calumet and Hecla archives. The archive contains two exterior photographs of the library and four ca. 1910 views of the interior:

- a. Exterior View showing north and west facades (1916);
- b. Exterior View showing north and east facades (1918);
- c. Interior Views showing Book Delivery Room looking south;
- d. Interior View showing Adult Reading Room looking east;
- e. Interior View showing Children's Reading Room looking north; and
- f. Interior View showing Children's Reading Room looking north.

The archives at Michigan Technological University in Houghton has two exterior views of the Calumet and Hecla Public Library in its photograph file:

- a. Exterior View showing north and east facades; and
- b. Exterior View showing north and west facades (1900)

A turn-of-the-century photograph of the library exterior hangs in the Calumet Laundromat and Dry Cleaning Center, 120 Fifth Street, Calumet.

Deeds are in the Houghton County Courthouse in Houghton.

Interviews with:

Dan Erickson, 706 Seventh Street, Laurium, Michigan. August 6, 1975. Mr. Erickson has been employed by Calumet and Hecla, and now by UOP, for forty-five years.

Thomas Knight, 58 Mohawk Avenue, Mohawk, Michigan, August 6, 1975. Mr. Knight is a long-time employee of the mining company.

Lucille Sindlebacker, 305 Sixth St., Calumet, Michigan. July 1975. Mrs. Sindlebacker is a former librarian for Calumet and Hecla.

B. Published sources

Bulletin of the American Library Association (Boston). Vol. 21, no. 3 (1908): 29-35.

Calumet News, 30 June 1903.

Copper Country Evening News, 16 September 1898, 13 June 1903

Grierson, Marie F. "Calumet and Hecla Library." The Mining Congress Journal (1931).

Hancock Evening Journal, 24 October 1903.

Houghton Mining Gazette, 22 October 1905.

Johnson, Johnson & Roy, Inc. "Development of a Restoration Program for the Calumet and Hecla Library for Coppertown USA, Calumet, Michigan." Ann Arbor: February 1975.

Polk's Houghton County Directory, Detroit: R.L. Polk & Co., Publishers, 1897-8.

Summary of Operations of the Calumet and Hecla Mining Company. Boston: University Press, 1898, 1899, 1911, 1912; In the archives of the Michigan Technological University, Houghton, Michigan.

Turner, Arthur W. Calumet Copper and People. Hancock: The Book Concern, Printers, 1974.

Turner, Arthur W. "A Tradition of Excellence," a speech given July 6, 1975 for the opening of the library museum in Calumet.

Wright, J.N. "The Development of the Copper Industry of Northern Michigan," in Publications of the Michigan Political Science Association, Vol. 3, no. 5 (January 1899); #12 item of Keweenaw Historical Society Collection in the archives of Michigan Technological University, Houghton, Michigan.

C. The following tracings or blueprints in the Calumet and Hecla archives were used:

Drawer #94	Dwg. #	Date	Title
Shaw & Hunnewell	#1	ca. 1896	Basement Plan
	2	"	First Floor Plan
	3	"	Second Floor Plan
	5	"	Side Elevation (east)
	6	"	Side Elevation (west)
	7	"	Rear Elevation (south)
	8	"	Longitudinal Section (west)
	9	"	Section (north)
	10	"	Transverse Section (north)
	11	"	Transverse Section (south)
	12	"	Longitudinal Section (east)
	13	"	First Floor Frame
	14	"	Second Floor Frame
	15	"	Plan of Intermediate Floor Frame & Elevation of Stacks
	16	"	Roof Frame
	17	"	Truss of Reading Room
	18	"	Ceiling of Delivery Room
[No designer indicated]#19		n.d.	Fireplace & Mantel, Windows & Door in Reading Room
	20	n.d.	Front Door
	21	n.d.	Delivery Room Details
	22	n.d.	Delivery Room Details
	23	n.d.	Alterations of W ½ of South Wing Basement
Shaw & Hunnewell		10/1898	New Entrance West Elevation
C&H? pencil sketches		08/1897	Changes in Gallery Stairs
			Basement Windows, inside & outside sashes
			First Floor Windows
			East end Catalogues & Men's Coat Room--inside & outside sashes
			Double Decker Windows in Stack Room
			South End of Stack Room Windows
			North Side of First Floor Windows
			Second Floor, N,S,&W Windows
			Second Floor South End Windows
			Second Floor E&W Side Windows of Children's Reading Room
			Windows, East End of Reading

			Room
			Door Between Reading Room & Staircase Hall
			West End Windows
			Windows in West Gable
			Balustrade of Balcony
C&H	#879-3		Transom over Staircase Doors, Inside Cellar Windows, Basement Staircase Door, Basement Staircase Sidelights
C&H	4137	05/1898	Library Booklift
GW&F Smith Iron Co.		12/12	Stairs
			Case 'A'
			Case 'B'
			Case 'C'
			Case 'D'
			Bars & Angles for Case 'A'
C.H. McKenny Co.			
Ink Tracings		n.d.?	Lantern--Electric
			E3299 Electrolier
			E3298 Electrolier
			Ceiling Electrolier & Brackets
			Brackets & Ceiling Lights
			Lantern
			Electrolier
Winslow Bros. Co., #5025-1		07/1898	Booklift & Enclosure
Drawer #95	Dwg.#	Date	Title
C&H	#771	1896	Miscellaneous Details (Stair Details, Norway Pine Molding, White Pine Mouthing, Wainscoting Cap Details)
	812	03/1897	Norway Pine Columns
	830	05/1897	Cast Iron Floor
	842	06/1897	Sash Details (Staircase Hall Window, West End; South Gable Inside & Outside Sash)
	843	06/1897	Front Door Transom
	844	06/1897	Sash Details (Front Door Side Sash, East & West Gable Transoms)
	868	09/1897	Sash Details (Transom Over Stair case Doors, Sash for Staircase

		Hall)
879	10/1897	Door Details
880	10/1897	Door Details
881	10/1897	Front Door
882	10/1897	Door Details
883	10/1897	Gallery Balustrade Detail
914	04/1898	Misc. Details-Basement Plan
	08/1898	Measurements for Venetian Blinds
1016	09/1898	Water Heater
1026	10/1898	Entrance on West End
1030	11/1898	Details of Panels
5663		Steel Framing in Basement
5669	09/12	Basement Plan & Sections Through Stacks
6342	11/02	Gallery Arch
6391	10/06	Gallery Sash
6343	09/03	Library Railing
6359	12/06	Second Floor Improvements
6425	08/07	Basement Window Guards
6439	08/05	Basement Plan
6440	09/05	First Floor Plan
6441	09/05	Second Floor Plan
10600	1944	Alterations-Details
10598	1944	Vault-Arrangement & Details
10599	1944	Basement & First Floor Alterations
11487	05/1951	Second Floor Plan
11569	05/1952	Drafting Dept. Tracing Files Front Elevation
11659	03/1953	Basement Floor Alterations-Plan
11787	11/1954	Window for Receptionist in South Wall of Secretary's Room
16368	10/1954	Sectional Elevation Looking North Project Engineering Office
16375		Annex Building Mailbox
16599	04/1956	Auditorium Speakers Platform Elevation
16638	10/1956	Printing Machine Vent
pencil tracing	01/11	Proposed Basement Alterations

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

Documentation was done in the summer of 1975 by Kevin Harrington and Wendy Nicholas for the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), a division of the National Park Service.

Fig. 1 Views of the Front Façade. Photographs by author, 1975.



Fig. 2 View of the East Elevation. Photograph by author, 1975.

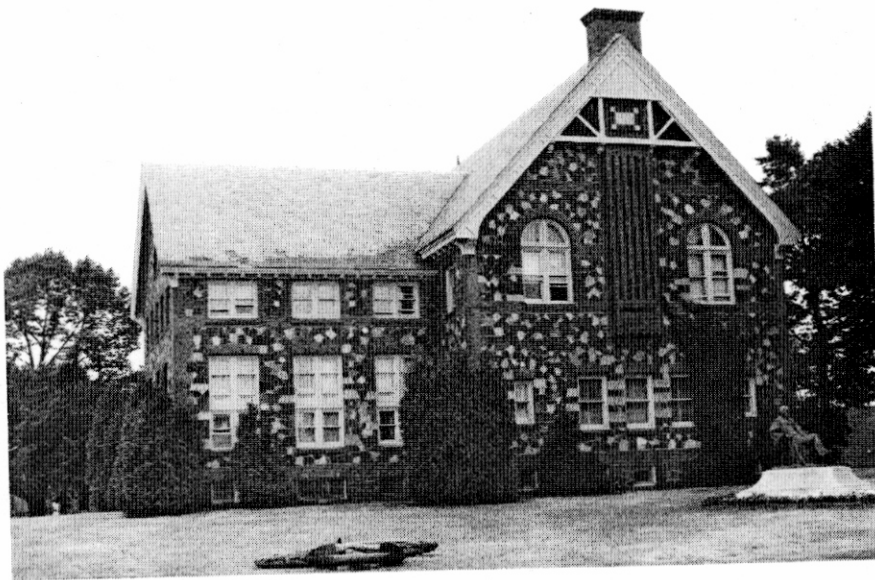


Fig. 3 View of South Elevation. Photograph by author, 1975.

